
SENATE BILL 5239

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Tom, McAuliffe, Marr, Shin and Keiser

Read first time 01/15/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a segmented mathematics alternative assessment;
2 and amending RCW 28A.655.065.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.065 and 2006 c 115 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature has made a commitment to rigorous academic
7 standards for receipt of a high school diploma. The primary way that
8 students will demonstrate that they meet the standards in reading,
9 writing, mathematics, and science is through the Washington assessment
10 of student learning. Only objective assessments that are comparable in
11 rigor to the state assessment are authorized as an alternative
12 assessment. Before seeking an alternative assessment, the legislature
13 expects students to make a genuine effort to meet state standards,
14 through retaking the Washington assessment of student learning; regular
15 and consistent attendance at school; and participation in extended
16 learning and other assistance programs.

17 (2) Under RCW 28A.655.061, beginning in the 2006-07 school year,
18 the superintendent of public instruction shall implement objective
19 alternative assessment methods as provided in this section for students

1 to demonstrate achievement of the state standards in content areas in
2 which the student has not yet met the standard on the high school
3 Washington assessment of student learning. A student may access an
4 alternative if the student meets applicable eligibility criteria in RCW
5 28A.655.061 and other eligibility criteria established by the
6 superintendent of public instruction, including but not limited to
7 attendance criteria and participation in the remediation or
8 supplemental instruction contained in the student learning plan
9 developed under RCW 28A.655.061. A school district may waive
10 attendance and/or remediation criteria for special, unavoidable
11 circumstances.

12 (3) For the purposes of this section, "applicant" means a student
13 seeking to use one of the alternative assessment methods in this
14 section.

15 (4) One alternative assessment method shall be a combination of the
16 applicant's grades in applicable courses and the applicant's highest
17 score on the high school Washington assessment of student learning, as
18 provided in this subsection. The superintendent of public instruction
19 shall determine which high school courses are applicable to the
20 alternative assessment method and shall issue guidelines to school
21 districts.

22 (a) Using guidelines prepared by the superintendent of public
23 instruction, a school district shall identify the group of students in
24 the same school as the applicant who took the same high school courses
25 as the applicant in the applicable content area. From the group of
26 students identified in this manner, the district shall select the
27 comparison cohort that shall be those students who met or slightly
28 exceeded the state standard on the Washington assessment of student
29 learning.

30 (b) The district shall compare the applicant's grades in high
31 school courses in the applicable content area to the grades of students
32 in the comparison cohort for the same high school courses. If the
33 applicant's grades are equal to or above the mean grades of the
34 comparison cohort, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the state
35 standard on the alternative assessment.

36 (c) An applicant may not use the alternative assessment under this
37 subsection (4) if there are fewer than six students in the comparison
38 cohort.

1 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop an
2 alternative assessment method that shall be an evaluation of a
3 collection of work samples prepared and submitted by the applicant, as
4 provided in this subsection and, for career and technical applicants,
5 the additional requirements of subsection (6) of this section.

6 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop
7 guidelines for the types and number of work samples in each content
8 area that may be submitted as a collection of evidence that the
9 applicant has met the state standard in that content area. Work
10 samples may be collected from academic, career and technical, or
11 remedial courses and may include performance tasks as well as written
12 products. The superintendent shall submit the guidelines for approval
13 by the state board of education.

14 (b) The superintendent shall develop protocols for submission of
15 the collection of work samples that include affidavits from the
16 applicant's teachers and school district that the samples are the work
17 of the applicant and a requirement that a portion of the samples be
18 prepared under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher. The
19 superintendent shall submit the protocols for approval by the state
20 board of education.

21 (c) The superintendent shall develop uniform scoring criteria for
22 evaluating the collection of work samples and submit the scoring
23 criteria for approval by the state board of education. Collections
24 shall be scored at the state level or regionally by a panel of
25 educators selected and trained by the superintendent to ensure
26 objectivity, reliability, and rigor in the evaluation. An educator may
27 not score work samples submitted by applicants from the educator's
28 school district. If the panel awards an applicant's collection of work
29 samples the minimum required score, the applicant shall be deemed to
30 have met the state standard on the alternative assessment.

31 (d) Using an open and public process that includes consultation
32 with district superintendents, school principals, and other educators,
33 the state board of education shall consider the guidelines, protocols,
34 scoring criteria, and other information regarding the collection of
35 work samples submitted by the superintendent of public instruction.
36 The collection of work samples may be implemented as an alternative
37 assessment after the state board of education has approved the
38 guidelines, protocols, and scoring criteria and determined that the

1 collection of work samples: (i) Will meet professionally accepted
2 standards for a valid and reliable measure of the grade level
3 expectations and the essential academic learning requirements; and (ii)
4 is comparable to or exceeds the rigor of the skills and knowledge that
5 a student must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of student
6 learning in the applicable content area. The state board shall make an
7 approval decision and determination no later than December 1, 2006, and
8 thereafter may increase the required rigor of the collection of work
9 samples.

10 (e) By September of 2006, the superintendent of public instruction
11 shall develop informational materials for parents, teachers, and
12 students regarding the collection of work samples and the status of its
13 development as an alternative assessment method. The materials shall
14 provide specific guidance regarding the type and number of work samples
15 likely to be required, include examples of work that meets the state
16 learning standards, and describe the scoring criteria and process for
17 the collection. The materials shall also encourage students in the
18 graduating class of 2008 to begin creating a collection if they believe
19 they may seek to use the collection once it is implemented as an
20 alternative assessment.

21 (6)(a) For students enrolled in a career and technical education
22 program approved under RCW 28C.04.110, the superintendent of public
23 instruction shall develop additional guidelines for a collection of
24 work samples that evidences that the collection:

25 (i) Is relevant to the student's particular career and technical
26 program;

27 (ii) Focuses on the application of academic knowledge and skills
28 within the program;

29 (iii) Includes completed activities or projects where demonstration
30 of academic knowledge is inferred; and

31 (iv) Is related to the essential academic learning requirements and
32 state standards that students must meet to earn a certificate of
33 academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement, but also
34 represents the knowledge and skills that successful individuals in the
35 career and technical field of the approved program are expected to
36 possess.

37 (b) To meet the state standard on the alternative assessment under

1 this subsection (6), an applicant must also attain the state or
2 nationally recognized certificate or credential associated with the
3 approved career and technical program.

4 (c) The superintendent shall consult with community and technical
5 colleges, employers, the work force training and education coordinating
6 board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts
7 in career and technical education to create an appropriate collection
8 of work samples and other evidence of a career and technical student's
9 knowledge and skills on the state academic standards.

10 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall implement an
11 alternative assessment option for mathematics that: Presents the
12 mathematics essential academic learnings in segments for assessment; is
13 comparable in content and rigor to the tenth grade mathematics
14 assessment when all segments are considered together; is reliable and
15 valid; and can be used to determine a student's academic performance
16 level.

17 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall study the
18 feasibility of using existing mathematics assessments in languages
19 other than English as an additional alternative assessment option. The
20 study shall include an estimation of the cost of translating the tenth
21 grade mathematics assessment into other languages and scoring the
22 assessments should they be implemented.

23 ~~((+8))~~ (9) The superintendent of public instruction shall
24 implement:

25 (a) By June 1, 2006, a process for students to appeal the score
26 they received on the high school assessments; and

27 (b) By January 1, 2007, guidelines and appeal processes for waiving
28 specific requirements in RCW 28A.655.061 pertaining to the certificate
29 of academic achievement and to the certificate of individual
30 achievement for students who: (i) Transfer to a Washington public
31 school in their junior or senior year with the intent of obtaining a
32 public high school diploma, or (ii) have special, unavoidable
33 circumstances.

34 ~~((+9))~~ (10) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt
35 rules to implement this section.

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